

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 18-1108V
(not to be published)

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PATRICIA RADUZINER,	*	
	*	
Petitioner,	*	Filed: November 14, 2022
	*	
v.	*	
	*	Decision by Stipulation; Damages;
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	*	Influenza (“Flu”) Vaccine; Guillain-Barré
HUMAN SERVICES,	*	syndrome.
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	
*****	*	

Jeffrey S. Pop, Law Offices of Jeffrey S. Pop & Associates, Beverly Hills, CA, for Petitioner
Colleen Clemons Hartley, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

On July 30, 2018, Patricia Raduziner (“Petitioner”) filed a petition, seeking compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (“the Vaccine Program”).² Pet., ECF No. 1. Petitioner alleges she suffered from a Table injury of Guillain-Barré syndrome as a result of the influenza (“flu”) vaccination she received on November 7, 2016. *See* Stipulation ¶ 2, 4, dated November 14, 2022 (ECF No. 59); *see also* Petition.

Respondent denies “that petitioner sustained a Table injury within the Table time period,

¹ Although this Decision has been formally designated “not to be published,” it will nevertheless be posted on the Court of Federal Claims’ website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 (2012). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** As provided by 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B), however, the parties may object to the Decision’s inclusion of certain kinds of confidential information. Specifically, under Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has fourteen days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, the Decision in its present form will be available. *Id.*

² The Vaccine Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755 (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10–34 (2012)) (hereinafter “Vaccine Act” or “the Act”). All subsequent references to sections of the Vaccine Act shall be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa.

and further denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner to suffer from GBS or any other injury or her current condition.” *See* Stipulation ¶ 6. Nonetheless, both parties, while maintaining their above-stated positions, agreed in a stipulation filed November 14, 2022 that the issues before them can be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding Petitioner compensation.

I have reviewed the file, and based upon that review, I conclude that the parties’ stipulation is reasonable. I therefore adopt it as my decision in awarding damages on the terms set forth therein.

The stipulation awards:

- a. A lump sum of \$368,004.85, which amount represents compensation for first year life care expenses (\$175,160.40), pain and suffering (\$120,000.00), and past unreimbursable expenses (\$72,844.45) in the form of a check payable to petitioner;
- b. A lump sum of \$20,208.00, which amount represents compensation to past unreimbursed expenses, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and

Woodland Care Center (CA)
7120 Corbin Avenue
Reseda, CA 91335-3618
Tel: (818) 881-4540

Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to Woodland Care Center (CA).

- c. A lump sum of \$216,903.67, which amount represents reimbursement of a Medicaid lien for services rendered to petitioner by the State of California, in the form of a check made payable jointly to petitioner and

Department of Health Care Services
Recovery Branch – MS 4720
P.O. Box 997421
Sacramento, CA 95899-7421
DHCS Account No.: C94233638D-VAC03

Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to the Department of Health Care Services.

- d. An amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in paragraph 10 of the Stipulation, paid to the life insurance company from which the annuity will be purchased (the “Life Insurance Company”).

Stipulation ¶ 8. This award represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

I approve a Vaccine Program award in the requested amount set forth above to be made to Petitioner. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the Clerk of the Court is directed to enter judgment herewith.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Katherine E. Oler

Katherine E. Oler

Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by jointly filing notice renouncing their right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

PATRICIA RADUZINER,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
v.)	
)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH)	No. 18-1108V
AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	Special Master Oler
)	ECF
Respondent.)	
)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Patricia Raduziner, petitioner, filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34 (the “Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner’s receipt of the influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. Petitioner received her flu vaccination on November 7, 2016.
3. The vaccination was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered from Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of receiving the flu vaccine, and that she experienced the residual effects of this injury for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on her behalf as a result of her condition.
6. Respondent denies that petitioner sustained a Table injury within the Table time

period, and further denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner to suffer from GBS or any other injury or her current condition.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. A lump sum of \$368,004.85, which amount represents compensation for first year life care expenses (\$175,160.40), pain and suffering (\$120,000.00), and past unreimbursable expenses (\$72,844.45) in the form of a check payable to petitioner;
- b. A lump sum of \$20,208.00, which amount represents compensation to past unreimbursed expenses, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and

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Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to Woodland Care Center (CA).

c. A lump sum of \$216,903.67,¹ which amount represents reimbursement of a Medicaid lien for services rendered to petitioner by the State of California, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and

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Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to the Department of Health Care Services.

d. An amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described in paragraph 10 below, paid to the life insurance company from which the annuity will be purchased (the "Life Insurance Company").

These amounts represent compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

9. The Life Insurance Company must have a minimum of \$250,000,000 capital and surplus, exclusive of any mandatory security valuation reserve. The Life Insurance Company must have one of the following ratings from two of the following rating organizations:

- a. A.M. Best Company: A++, A+, A+g, A+p, A+r, or A+s;
- b. Moody's Investor Service Claims Paying Rating: Aa3, Aa2, Aa1, or Aaa;
- c. Standard and Poor's Corporation Insurer Claims-Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA;
- d. Fitch Credit Rating Company, Insurance Company Claims Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA.

10. The Secretary of Health and Human Services agrees to purchase an annuity contract from the Life Insurance Company for the benefit of petitioner, Patricia Raduziner, pursuant to

¹ This amount represents full satisfaction of any right of subrogation, assignment, claim, lien, or cause of action the State of California may have against any individual as a result of any Medicaid payments the state has made to or on behalf of Patricia Raduziner as a result of her

which the Life Insurance Company will agree to make payments periodically to petitioner as follows for the following life care items available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

- a. For future unreimbursable Medicare Advantage and Medicare Advantage Maximum out of Pocket expenses, beginning on the first anniversary of the date of judgment, an annual amount of \$1,208.40 to be paid for the remainder of petitioner's life, increasing at the rate of three percent (3%), compounded annually from the date of judgment.
- b. For future unreimbursable Home Health Aide expenses, beginning on the first anniversary of the date of judgment, an annual amount of \$138,700.00 to be paid for the remainder of petitioner's life, increasing at the rate of three percent (3%), compounded annually from the date of judgment.
- c. For future unreimbursable Transportation expenses, beginning on the first anniversary of the date of judgment, an annual amount of \$252.00 to be paid for the remainder of petitioner's life, increasing at the rate of three percent (3%), compounded annually from the date of judgment.

At the sole discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the periodic payments set forth in paragraph 10 above may be provided to petitioner in monthly, quarterly, annual, or other installments. The "annual amounts" set forth above describe only the total yearly sum to be paid to petitioner and do not require that the payment be made in one annual installment. Petitioner will continue to receive the annuity payments from the Life Insurance Company only so long as she, Patricia Raduziner, is alive at the time that a particular payment is due. Written notice shall be provided to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Life Insurance Company within twenty (20) days of Patricia Raduziner's death.

11. The annuity contract will be owned solely and exclusively by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and will be purchased as soon as practicable following the entry of a judgment in conformity with this Stipulation. The parties stipulate and agree that the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America are not responsible for the

alleged vaccine-related injury as a result of the flu vaccine administered on or about November 7, 2016, under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, see 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), (h).

payment of any sums other than the amounts set forth in paragraph 8 herein and the amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 12 herein, and that they do not guarantee or insure any of the future annuity payments. Upon the purchase of the annuity contract, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America are released from any and all obligations with respect to future annuity payments.

12. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

13. Petitioner and her attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

14. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 12 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

15. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation either immediately or as part of the annuity contract, will be used solely for petitioner's benefit as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-15(g) and (h).

16. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 12, petitioner, in her individual capacity, and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccination administered on November 7, 2016, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about July 30, 2018, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 18-1108V.

17. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

18. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

19. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 12 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this

Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

20. Petitioner hereby authorizes respondent to disclose documents filed by petitioner in this case consistent with the Privacy Act and the routine uses described in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program System of Records, No. 09-15-0056.

21. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS or any other injury or her current condition.

22. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

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Respectfully submitted

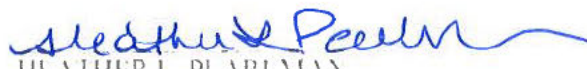
PETITIONER:


PATRICIA RADUZINER

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:


JEFFREY S. POP, ESQ.
Jeffrey S. Pop & Associates
9150 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 241
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Tel: (310) 273-5462
Email: jpop@poplawyer.com

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:


HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

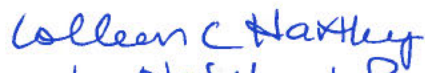

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:

George R.
Grimes -S14

Digitally signed by George
R. Grimes -S14
Date: 2022.10.13 10:34:27
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CDR GEORGE REED GRIMES, MD, MPH
Acting Director, Division of Injury
Compensation Programs
Health Systems Bureau
Health Resources and Services
Administration
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane, 08N146B
Rockville, MD 20857

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:


by 
COLLEEN C. HARTLEY
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
Tel: (202) 616-3644
Email: colleen.hartley@usdoj.gov

Dated: 11/14/2022